

SWEET DREAMS

The world of dreams represents a boundless field of investigation, where past, present and future merge, along with reality and obsession. **Lucia Simone** moves in a dreamlike dimension that overlaps different yet indivisible planes, such as the physical and the mental. The products of the unconscious interfere with everyday scenes and situations, creating paradoxical and revealing circumstances.

The imaginary soundtrack for the exhibition is *Sweet Dreams* by Eurythmics, the dark and nihilistic tone of which reminds us that dreams can take many different forms, often bordering on darkness, without any escape or possibility of conscious control. Simone doesn't simply break down the boundaries between the conscious and unconscious worlds, but intersects them with a third reality, the digital one, which has also become an integral part of our mental activity.

The artist works with photographic images taken from the Internet or other media sources, before moving on to a creative phase linked to the pictorial intervention. Digital work, however, does not play a marginal role and does not simply represent a preparatory practice prior to the painting. It is instead an integral part of Simone's research, which uses technology to bring new and innovative visions to life.

The works are therefore created with a mixed technique ranging from collage to photographic post-production to oil painting. The atmosphere and aesthetics of the social media world are analysed, deconstructed and recomposed, undergoing a transformation that gives rise to a complex and evocative language.

Disturbing images, blurred faces, temporal incongruities and plays of light and movement recur, contrasting with the mundane environments in which the scenes are set. A kitchen often appears in the background, an intimate space where routine activities take place, yet from which unsettling details emerge. A prime example is *Parallel Words*, where the kitchen ceiling opens onto a starry night sky while a purplish light, typical of autumn sunsets, enters through the windows. The subjects depicted often have an evanescent appearance, sometimes dematerializing and merging with their surroundings. The enigmatic nature of the characters' features leads to questions about their gender and their decidedly elusive emotional state.

Another recurring setting is nature, which is also presented in a surreal and spiritual light. Flowers, meadows and woods appear as silent and comforting places, devoid of rational architecture, thus leaving the mind free to wander and lose itself.

As in dreams, the plot of Simone's images is not linear; it is a coincidence of apparitions and unsolvable puzzles, where the search for logical sense is nothing more than a superfluous and misleading element, since what truly matters in these images is their essence.

Anna Gasperini